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NEW BOOKS REVIEWED

CARIBBEAN INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. By Chester Lloyd Jones. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1916.

Despite the agitation for national preparedness, despite the economic changes which the great war has brought, and in spite of the fact that the United States within a comparatively recent period has undertaken new and weighty foreign responsibilities, it is perhaps still true that the average American citizen does not fully realize the importance of his country's relations with other nations. It has often been said, of late, that our "splendid isolation" has become a myth. Possibly the truth of this statement would be generally admitted. Yet in any able discussion of the connection between foreign policy and national prosperity there is undoubtedly much for the ill-informed to learn and for the well-informed to ponder.

A treatise on this subject that is unquestionably worth while and of special interest just now is *Caribbean Interests of the United States*, by Chester Lloyd Jones, professor of political science in the University of Wisconsin. This book differs from most of those which undertake to explain the interdependence of business and foreign affairs; first, in that it approaches the subject from the economic point of view, and second, in that it deals very fully with an important and somewhat neglected sphere of political and economic interests. Professor Jones gives a general outline of political and business conditions in the countries of the Caribbean which should be of great value both to the political thinker and to the business man of large aims. He also gives a great deal of precise information in regard to trade which is useful independently of the conclusions which it helps to support.

In one aspect the whole treatise is a demonstration of the fact that we are necessarily "assuming responsibilities of complex character intended to stabilize the conditions of Caribbean life, to foster the development of local resources and industries, to promote foreign trade, and to avoid the possibility of incidents which might induce interference by non-American Powers." A weak foreign policy imperils the investments of American citizens in countries weakly governed or discourages investment by Americans in such countries;

it also invites infractions of the Monroe Doctrine. Certain still-remembered incidents, moreover, go to show that the scope of the Monroe Doctrine must be extended. "To obtain an economic concession which by its political results, to paraphrase the original Monroe Doctrine, would operate against American countries so as to 'oppress them and control their destinies,' is an act unfriendly to the United States." Indeed it may be said that the nation has fairly committed itself to a broader and more positive policy in American foreign affairs than was formerly held to be normal.

The general considerations making in favor of this broader policy are immensely strengthened in the case of the countries of the Caribbean by certain arguments which apply to them far more than to other Latin-American countries. Each of these countries is economically dependent upon trade in a single product. The principal product in each case is of such a nature that it cannot be successfully exploited otherwise than by "big business." Any industry of great importance in the Caribbean finds the United States the greatest buyer of the commodity it produces. Correspondingly, the Caribbean is the natural region for the investment of surplus American capital. "Railways, asphalt concessions, sugar, coffee, tobacco, cocoa plantations, mines, port works, municipal improvements, have already been financed by American capitalists, and are likely to be so in the future to an increasing extent." Thus whatever be one's attitude toward "imperialism" one can hardly doubt that in the Caribbean countries conditions tend to create an identity of economic and political interests with those of the United States.

Quite apart from political theory, however, Professor Jones' book is informing to business men. If one wants to know how the opening of the Panama Canal will affect business conditions in one of the Leeward Islands or whether cane sugar is likely to be in the future the economic mainstay of Jamaica, one could hardly turn to a better source of facts than this treatise.

THE WAR AND THE SOUL. By the Reverend R. J. Campbell, New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1916.

It has been said again and again during these later years of war-madness in Europe, and it is perfectly true, that religion cannot die. The present war cannot kill religion, though it will, of course, have a profound effect upon religious belief as upon all else. What this effect will be, depends more than is the case in most human affairs upon what men think here and now. The reasoning of every civilized man from day to day, his emotional reaction to the horrors of Armageddon, will affect the religious belief of tomorrow, and no other cause can prevent this one from acting. A peculiar interest, therefore, attaches to such discussions as the